

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

National Application No
PCT/EP 02/07821

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER IPC 7 C11D1/66 C11D17/00		
According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC		
B. FIELDS SEARCHED Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols) IPC 7 C11D		
Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched		
Electronic data base consulted during the International search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used) WPI Data, EPO-Internal, PAJ		
C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	DE 20 59 403 A (ECONOMICS LAB) 24 June 1971 (1971-06-24)	1-4,8-10
A	page 4, paragraph 3; claim 1; table I	5-7
A	DATABASE WPI Section Ch. Week 197933 Derwent Publications Ltd., London, GB; Class A25, AN 1979-60457B XP002219264 & JP 54 083912 A (LION FAT & OIL CO LTD), 4 July 1979 (1979-07-04) abstract	1,4-7
A	WO 00 50552 A (PROCTER & GAMBLE) 31 August 2000 (2000-08-31) example 1A	1,4,8-10
	-/--	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Patent family members are listed in annex.		
* Special categories of cited documents : *A* document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance *E* earlier document but published on or after the International filing date *L* document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified) *O* document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means *P* document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed *T* later document published after the International filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention *X* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone *Y* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art. *G* document member of the same patent family		
Date of the actual completion of the International search 11 November 2002		Date of mailing of the International search report 26/11/2002
Name and mailing address of the ISA European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl, Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016		Authorized officer Saunders, T

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

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PCT/EP 02/07821

C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	US 4 836 951 A (TOTTEN GEORGE E ET AL) 6 June 1989 (1989-06-06) claim 1; example 2 -----	1,4,8,10

Continuation of Box I.2

Claims no: 1 to 3 (in part)

The current Claims 1 to 3 concern a product characterized in each case by a desirable characteristic or property, namely a dynamic surface tension of less than 60 mN/m, at a concentration of 0.1 g/l in distilled water at a frequency of 1 Hz to 5 Hz.

Therefore the claims include all products displaying this characteristic or property whereas the application, within the meaning of PCT Article 5, provides support through the description only for a limited number of these products. In the present case the claims lack the proper support and the application lacks the requisite disclosure to such an extent that it appears impossible to carry out a meaningful search covering the entire range of protection sought.

Nevertheless, the claims also lack the clarity stipulated in PCT Article 6, since they attempt to define the product by the result to be attained. This lack of clarity is also such that a meaningful search covering the entire range of protection sought is impossible. Therefore the search was directed to the parts of the claims that appeared to be clear and supported and disclosed in the above sense, that is the parts concerning the products given in the embodiments and the products containing the compounds with EO-AO-EO-AO blocks mentioned in the description.

The applicant is advised that claims or parts of claims relating to inventions in respect of which no international search report has been established need not be the subject of an international preliminary examination (PCT Rule 66.1(e)). In its capacity as International Preliminary Examining Authority the EPO generally will not carry out a preliminary examination for subjects that have not been searched. This also applies to cases where the claims were amended after receipt of the international search report (PCT Article 19) or where the applicant submits new claims in the course of the procedure under PCT Chapter II.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/EP 02/07821

Box I Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 1 of first sheet)

This international search report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:

2. ☒ Claims Nos.: **2-3 IN PART**
because they relate to parts of the international application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful international search can be carried out, specifically:
see additional sheet FURTHER INFORMATION PCT/ISA/210

3. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

Box II Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:

1. ☐ As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers all searchable claims.

2. ☐ As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.

3. ☐ As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:

4. ☐ No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this international search report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:

Remark on Protest

☐

The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest.

☐

No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International Application No
PCT/EP 02/07821

Patent document cited in search report		Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
DE 2059403	A	24-06-1971	DE 2059403 A1	24-06-1971
			FR 2072764 A5	24-09-1971
			GB 1306840 A	14-02-1973
			JP 49018718 B	11-05-1974
			SE 386456 B	09-08-1976
			US 3625901 A	07-12-1971
JP 54083912	A	04-07-1979	JP 1249797 C	25-01-1985
			JP 59025838 B	21-06-1984
WO 0050552	A	31-08-2000	AU 2877600 A	14-09-2000
			EP 1155107 A1	21-11-2001
			WO 0050552 A1	31-08-2000
US 4836951	A	06-06-1989	CA 1272932 A1	21-08-1990